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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter Page

---

<b>ES.</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>ES- I</b>
ES.1	Introduction .....	ES- I
ES.2	Purpose of and Need for the Resource Management Plan .....	ES-4
ES.3	Scoping .....	ES-5
ES.4	Issues.....	ES-6
ES.5	Planning Criteria.....	ES-8
ES.6	Management Alternatives .....	ES-8
	ES.6.1 Alternative A.....	ES-9
	ES.6.2 Alternative B (Preferred) .....	ES-10
	ES.6.3 Alternative C .....	ES-10
	ES.6.4 Alternative D .....	ES-11
ES.7	Environmental Consequences .....	ES-17

---

## TABLES Page

---

ES-1	Land Status within the GJFO Planning Area.....	ES-2
ES-2	Mineral Status within the GJFO Planning Area by County .....	ES-4
ES-3	Planning Issue Categories and Statements.....	ES-6
ES-4	Comparative Summary of Alternatives .....	ES-11

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## FIGURES Page

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ES-1	Project Planning Area .....	ES-3
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## ES.I INTRODUCTION

The United States (US) Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this draft resource management plan (RMP) revision and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the BLM Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508); BLM NEPA regulations (43 CFR Part 46); Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 US Code [USC] 1701 et seq.); requirements of the BLM's NEPA Handbook, H-1790-1 (BLM 2008a); and BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1 (BLM 2005a).

The approved RMP will replace the 1987 Grand Junction RMP (BLM 1987), as amended, and will guide management of public lands administered by GJFO into the future. Information about the RMP/EIS process can be obtained on the project Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html>.

The GJFO planning area is composed of BLM; US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (US Forest Service); US Fish and Wildlife Service; US Bureau of Reclamation; and State of Colorado lands (**Table ES-I**, Land Status within the GJFO Planning Area) in Garfield, Mesa, Montrose, and Rio Blanco Counties in western Colorado. There are nearly 1.1 million acres of BLM-administered public lands and 1.2 million acres of federal mineral estate in the planning area. The McInnis Canyons and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Areas (NCAs), while managed by the BLM and within the GJFO boundary, are or will be managed under separate RMPs. As such, these NCAs are not within the GJFO RMP decision area and are not part of this planning effort, with the exception of the portion of the Colorado River surrounded by the McInnis Canyons NCA that is being studied under the Wild and Scenic

**Table ES-1**  
**Land Status within the GJFO Planning Area**

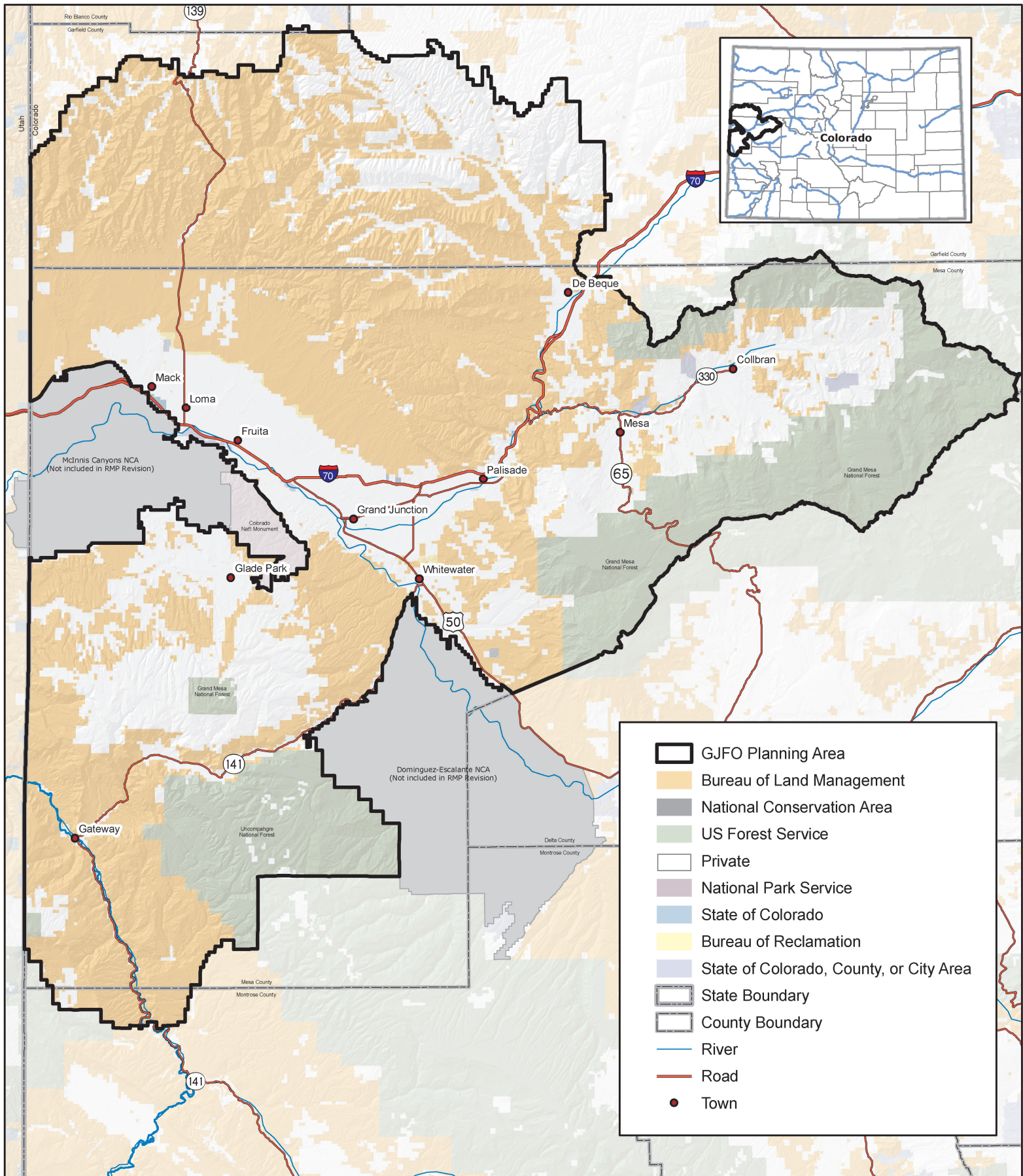
<b>Land Status</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Percentage of Planning Area</b>
BLM	1,061,400	50
US Bureau of Reclamation	7,900	less than 1
Local (State, County, and City)	3,400	less than 1
Private	714,100	30
State Wildlife Areas and State Recreation Areas (Colorado Parks and Wildlife [CPW])	1,400	less than 1
US Forest Service	380,000	20
Other	370	less than 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,168,600</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: BLM land includes approximately 3,100 acres of US Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands administered by the BLM.

Source: BLM 2010a

Rivers Suitability Report (**Appendix C**). A map of the planning area is provided as **Figure ES-1**, Project Planning Area.

The decision area for the RMP revision—those lands on which the RMP will make decisions—is composed only of GJFO BLM lands within the larger planning area, which comprise nearly 50 percent of the planning area (**Table ES-1**, Acres of Land Status within the GJFO Planning Area). Management direction and actions outlined in the RMP apply only to these BLM lands in the planning area and to federal mineral estate under BLM jurisdiction that may lie beneath other surface ownership. Federal mineral estate under BLM jurisdiction is composed of mineral estate underlying BLM lands, privately owned lands, and state-owned lands (**Table ES-2**, Mineral Status within the GJFO Planning Area by County). As such, federal mineral estate acres are greater than BLM surface acres. No specific measures have been developed for private, state, or other federal lands, but given that these lands are interspersed with BLM lands, they could be influenced or be indirectly affected by BLM management actions. BLM management authority on lands with a split estate (e.g., private surface but federal minerals) is limited to activities (both surface and subsurface) related to exploration and development of the minerals. The BLM adopts the leasing requirements determined by other surface-managing agencies when leasing the mineral estate under those lands. Lands administered by the Forest Service would have leasing decisions made in the appropriate Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan/EIS. In its plans, the Forest Service analyzes impacts from oil and gas leasing and development on National Forest System Lands and describes where the Forest Service will or will not consent to leasing.



Source: BLM 2010a

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice. Map produced by Grand Junction Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction, CO.

## Project Planning Area



Figure ES-1

**Table ES-2**  
**Mineral Status within the GJFO Planning Area by County**

<b>Land Status (acres)</b>	<b>Garfield County</b>	<b>Mesa County</b>	<b>Montrose County</b>	<b>Rio Blanco County</b>	<b>Total</b>
BLM/Federal Minerals	322,600	721,700	17,100	0	1,061,400
BLM/Private Minerals	200	1,800	0	0	2,000
Private Surface/Federal Minerals	33,300	132,700	200	400	166,600
State Surface/Federal Minerals	0	1,200	0	0	1,200
Local Surface/Federal Minerals	0	2,100	0	0	2,100

Source: BLM 2010a

## **ES.2 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The purpose of this RMP revision is to ensure that public lands are managed in accordance with the intent of Congress, as stated in the FLPMA, under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. This will be accomplished by establishing desired goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions needed to achieve the desired conditions for resources and resource uses. The RMP incorporates new data, addresses land use issues and conflicts, specifies where and under what circumstances particular activities would be allowed on BLM lands, and incorporates the mandate of multiple uses in accordance with the FLPMA. The RMP does not describe how particular programs or projects would be implemented or prioritized; rather, those decisions are deferred to more detailed implementation-level planning.

The FLPMA requires that the BLM “develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise land use plans” (43 USC 1712 [a]). The public lands within the GJFO planning area are currently managed in accordance with the decisions in the 1987 Grand Junction RMP (BLM 1987). The BLM has completed approximately 50 maintenance actions and 12 RMP amendments since the 1987 Record of Decision was signed. There is a need to revise the GJFO RMP due to new issues that have arisen since the original plan was prepared. Major issues contributing to the RMP revision include the following:

- Management of public land to support numerous wildlife species and their habitats.
- Management of public lands containing wilderness character and oil and gas potential, including areas not designated as Wilderness Study Areas.
- Management of energy and mineral resources, including identifying areas and conditions in which mineral development can occur.
- Management of increased visitation by way of off-highway vehicle use and nonmotorized uses (e.g., mountain biking and hiking) that

have led to increased concerns regarding resource protection and conflicting uses.

- Completion of Wild and Scenic River eligibility and suitability studies on river segments within the GJFO planning area.
- Consideration of opportunities for land tenure adjustment to improve public lands manageability.
- Expansion of communities and the urban interface.
- Consideration of right-of-way (ROW) exclusion areas and corridors.
- The needs of local government and citizens to be heard on an array of issues regarding both traditional and emerging uses of public land and their potential social and economic effects on local communities and values.

In addition, new resource assessments and scientific information is available to help the GJFO in revising previous decisions. Specifically, there may be a need to evaluate management prescriptions and resource allocations to address the increase in uses and demands on BLM lands (such as natural gas development and recreation), as well as the interest in protecting natural and cultural resources. There is also the need to review the RMP to allow for updated BLM management direction, guidance, and policy. Land use plan decisions may be changed only through the amendment or revision process.

### **ES.3 SCOPING**

The formal public scoping process for the GJFO RMP/EIS began on October 15, 2008, with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register (Vol. 73, No. 200, page 61164). The BLM issued a news release to local news organizations on November 6, 2008, announcing the scoping period for the GJFO RMP/EIS process and providing information on the scoping open houses. A newsletter was prepared and mailed to members of the public, agencies, and organizations on November 11, 2008. The BLM compiled the mailing list, which included over 680 individuals, agencies, and organizations that have participated in past BLM projects, those requesting to be on the mailing list, or those who may have an interest. The newsletter served to inform the recipients of the scoping process and the scheduled open house scoping meetings and gave them various alternative methods to submit written comments.

The BLM hosted three scoping open houses to provide the public with opportunities to become involved, to learn about the project and the planning process, to meet the GJFO RMP team members, and to offer comments. Open houses were held in Grand Junction, Colorado on December 2, 2008; in Moab, Utah on December 3, 2008; and in Collbran, Colorado on December 4, 2008. The BLM provided the local media with press releases announcing the time,

location, and purpose of these meetings. In total, 114 people attended these open houses.

The scoping period for receipt of public comments ended January 9, 2009. The BLM received 149 unique written submissions containing 953 separate comments during the public scoping period. Detailed information about the comments received and about the public outreach process can be found in the Grand Junction Field Office RMP Revision Scoping Summary Report, finalized in April 2009 (BLM 2009a). A summary of the issues identified during public scoping and outreach is included in **Section ES.4**, Issues, below.

## ES.4 ISSUES

Issue identification is the first step of the nine-step BLM planning process (see **Section 1.6.2**). A planning issue is a major controversy or dispute regarding management of resources or uses on BLM lands that can be addressed in a variety of ways, which is within the BLM's authority to resolve.

The issue-identification process began with the creation of a preparation plan for the GJFO RMP/EIS in January 2008. This plan, used by the GJFO's interdisciplinary team of resource experts to begin the planning process, highlighted anticipated planning issues, management concerns, and preliminary planning criteria developed internally by the BLM interdisciplinary team. Based on the lands and resources managed in the planning area, preliminary issues fell into 20 planning issue categories in the pre-scoping analysis. The comments received during the public scoping process were analyzed, and the pre-scoping planning issues were reorganized into 17 planning issue categories. Based on the issues and concerns heard during public scoping, a planning issue statement was developed for each planning issue category. The 17 planning issue categories and statements are presented in **Table ES-3**, Planning Issue Categories and Statements. The BLM used the planning issues and statements to help guide the development of a reasonable range of alternative management strategies for the RMP.

**Table ES-3**  
**Planning Issue Categories and Statements**

Issue	Planning Issue Category	Planning Issue Statement
1.	Travel Management	How will motorized, nonmotorized, and mechanized travel be managed to provide commodity, amenity, and recreation opportunities, reduce user conflicts, enforce route designations and closures, reduce fragmentation and habitat degradation, and protect natural and cultural resources?
2.	Energy Development	Which areas should be open to oil and gas leasing, coal mining, and uranium development, and what restrictions should be employed to protect natural and cultural resources and minimize user conflicts?



**Table ES-3**  
**Planning Issue Categories and Statements**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Planning Issue Category</b>	<b>Planning Issue Statement</b>
3.	Recreation Management	How will recreation be managed to provide for a variety of recreational activities, while protecting natural and cultural resources, minimizing user conflicts, and providing socioeconomic benefits to local communities?
4.	Lands and Realty / Community Growth and Expansion	What opportunities exist to make adjustments to public land ownership that would increase the benefit to the public, local communities, and natural resources, while working towards BLM management goals? Should the BLM designate areas to accommodate major ROW corridors across the GJFO planning area, and are there areas that should be avoided or excluded from ROWs?
5.	Wildlife and Fish	How will land uses be managed to maintain and improve terrestrial and aquatic habitats? How will the BLM manage the public lands to provide for the needs of fish and wildlife species?
6.	Special Designation Areas	Where and what types of special designations exist or should be enacted to protect and enhance unique resources and educational and research opportunities, and how will the BLM manage them to maximize recreational opportunities and socioeconomic benefits?
7.	Lands With Wilderness Characteristics	How will the BLM protect and manage lands with wilderness characteristics?
8.	Water, Soil, and Riparian Areas	What measures will be implemented to protect water resources and source water protection areas from the effects of other uses while rehabilitating areas with soils degradation?
9.	Special Status Species Management	How will the BLM manage the public lands to provide for the needs of sensitive fish, wildlife, and plant species?
10.	Vegetation Management	What measures should be implemented to protect native vegetation and riparian areas, prevent the spread of noxious weeds, and manage wildland fires?
11.	Air Quality	What measures and monitoring should the BLM implement to maintain air quality standards?
12.	Grazing	How will the BLM manage livestock grazing on public lands, while protecting, managing, and restoring the land?
13.	Cultural, Heritage, and Paleontological Resources and Native American Religious Concerns	How can the BLM protect and conserve cultural and paleontological resources while allowing for other land and resource uses, and where should BLM manage heritage resources and areas?

**Table ES-3**  
**Planning Issue Categories and Statements**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Planning Issue Category</b>	<b>Planning Issue Statement</b>
14.	Social and Economic Considerations	How can the BLM promote or maintain activities that provide social and economic benefits to local communities?
15.	Public Health and Safety	What measures should be undertaken to promote a healthy environment for local communities?
16.	Noise	What measures should the BLM implement to preserve the natural soundscape in the planning area?
17.	Drought Management / Climate Change	How will the BLM incorporate the analysis of the impacts of a changing climate on natural resources in the planning area?

## **ES.5 PLANNING CRITERIA**

Planning criteria are the standards, rules, and guidelines that help guide data collection and alternative formulation and selection in the RMP-development process. In conjunction with the planning issues, planning criteria ensure that the planning process is focused. The criteria also help guide the final plan selection and provide a basis for judging the responsiveness of the planning options.

The BLM developed preliminary planning criteria before public scoping meetings to set the side boards for focused planning of the GJFO RMP revision and to guide decision making by topic. The BLM introduced these criteria to the public for review in December 2008 at all scoping meetings and encouraged the public to comment on and suggest additions to these criteria through written correspondence and at the GJFO RMP revision website. There are 31 planning criteria (see **Section 1.7**, Legislative Constraints and Planning Criteria).

## **ES.6 MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES**

The basic goal of developing alternatives is to prepare different combinations of resource uses and protections to address the identified major planning issues, enhance or expand resources or resource uses, and resolve conflicts among resources and resource uses. Alternatives must meet the purpose and need; be reasonable; provide a mix of resource protection, management use, and development; be responsive to the issues; meet the established planning criteria; and meet federal laws, regulations, policies, and standards, including the multiple use mandates of the FLPMA.

Following the close of the public scoping period in January 2009, the BLM began developing alternatives by assembling an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists in the GJFO. The BLM's Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council chartered a subgroup in August 2008, whereby they appointed 11 members of the public to provide advice on developing a reasonable range of alternatives that adequately reflect public concern. The BLM coordinated with

cooperating agencies and the Northwest Resource Advisory Council subgroup beginning in August 2008 and continuing throughout the planning process. Between June 2009 and February 2010, the BLM interdisciplinary team developed management goals and objectives and management actions to meet those goals and objectives. Four management alternatives were developed to fulfill the purpose and need, to meet the multiple use mandates of the FLPMA, and to address the 17 planning issues. Chapter 2 describes the four alternatives: the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and three action alternatives, Alternatives B, C, and D. The following sections provide some key components of the alternatives. The alternatives offer a range of management options that address the issues identified in the scoping process and other outreach activities, including, but not limited to: input from Cooperating Agencies, the Northwest Resource Advisory Council subgroup, visitor studies, focus groups, informal interviews, and reports, such as the Wild and Scenic River eligibility study (BLM 2009c) and Wild and Scenic River suitability study, ACECs evaluation (BLM 2010b), and Visual Resource Inventory study (Otak 2009).

Each alternative stands alone as a potential RMP and provides direction for resource programs based on the development of specific goals, objectives, and management actions. Described in each alternative is specific direction influencing land management with an emphasis on different combinations of resource uses and protections, allowable uses, and restoration measures to address issues and to resolve user conflicts. Resource program goals are met in varying degrees across alternatives. Resources or resource uses not tied to planning issues or mandated by laws and regulations often contain few or no differences in management between alternatives. Alternatives may also result in different long-term conditions.

The alternatives differ from one another in the relative emphasis given to particular resources or resource uses. Each alternative has been designed to respond to the planning issues differently, providing a range of possible management approaches that the BLM could implement. Distinctions between alternatives are expressed in the RMP by varying specific objectives, allowable uses, management actions, and implementation actions, such as travel route designations. Although each alternative stands alone as a potential RMP, the final Proposed Plan/Final EIS may include elements from multiple alternatives analyzed in this draft.

Summaries of the alternatives are presented below. A complete description of all decisions proposed for each alternative is included in Chapter 2. **Table ES-4, Comparative Summary of Alternatives**, highlights the meaningful differences among alternatives relative to what they establish and where they occur.

#### **ES.6.1 Alternative A**

The “No Action” alternative, Alternative A, is the continuation of present management direction and current prevailing conditions based on existing

planning decisions and amendments. This alternative meets the requirements of the NEPA (40 CFR Part 1502.14) that a no-action alternative be considered. “No action” means that current management practices, based on the existing GJFO RMP (BLM 1987), RMP amendments, and activity- or implementation-level plans, would continue. Goals and objectives for BLM land resources and resource uses would be based on the existing GJFO RMP, RMP amendments, and activity- or implementation-level plans. The emphasis would be on maintaining the existing land management direction for physical, biological, cultural, and historic resource values along with recreational, social, and economic land uses.

Direction contained in laws, regulations, and BLM policies superseding provisions of the existing RMP and amendments would be implemented.

The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses (such as mineral leasing, locatable mineral development, recreation, timber harvest, utility corridors, and livestock grazing) would stay the same. There would be no change in goals, objectives, allowable uses, or management actions that are allowed, restricted, or prohibited on BLM lands and mineral estate. The BLM would not establish additional criteria or change present criteria to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for implementation activities.

#### **ES.6.2 Alternative B (Preferred)**

Alternative B seeks to balance resources among competing human interests, land uses, and the conservation of natural and cultural resource values, while sustaining the ecological integrity of certain key habitats for plant, wildlife, and fish species. It incorporates a balanced level of protection, restoration, enhancement, and use of resources and services to meet ongoing programs and land uses. Goals and objectives focus on environmental, economic, and social outcomes achieved by strategically addressing demands across the landscape.

#### **ES.6.3 Alternative C**

Alternative C emphasizes non-consumptive use and management of resources through protection, restoration, and enhancement, while also providing for multiple uses, including livestock grazing and mineral development. This alternative would establish the greatest number of special designation areas, with specific measures to protect or enhance resource values within these areas. Goals and objectives focus on environmental and social outcomes achieved by sustaining relatively unmodified physical landscapes and natural and cultural resource values for current and future generations.

Management direction would generally be ecologically based; existing uses would be recognized but would likely be limited to ensure the protection of natural and cultural values, including intangible Native American landscape values encompassing plant communities, wildlife, viewsheds, air, and water. The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses, such as mineral leasing,

locatable mineral development, recreation, and livestock grazing, are contingent on meeting the essential conditions of natural and heritage resources.

#### ES.6.4 Alternative D

This alternative emphasizes active management for natural resources, commodity production, and public use opportunities. Resource uses, such as recreation, livestock grazing, mineral leasing and development, would be emphasized. Management direction would recognize and give precedence to existing uses and accommodate new uses to the greatest extent possible while maintaining resource conditions. The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses would emphasize social and economic outcomes while protecting land health.

**Table ES-4**  
**Comparative Summary of Alternatives**

Resource or Resource Use	Alt A (acres)	Alt B (acres)	Alt C (acres)	Alt D (acres)	Notes
<b>Wildlife Emphasis Areas</b>		<i>Figure 2-1</i>	<i>Figure 2-2</i>	<i>Figure 2-3</i>	
Beehive		4,700	4,700		
Blue Mesa		9,300	9,300		
Bull Hill		4,800	4,800		
Casto			4,200		
East Salt Creek		26,100	26,100		
Glade Park		27,200			Managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) under Alternative C.
Hawxhurst			9,400		
Indian Point			11,400		
Prairie Canyon		22,200	15,300		An additional 6,900 acres managed as an ACEC under Alternative C.
Rapid Creek		28,600	28,600		
Red Mountain			5,000		
Roan and Carr Creeks		17,700		33,400	33,600 acres managed as an ACEC under Alternative C.
South Shale Ridge		3,500	3,500		
Sunnyside		14,500	11,300		An additional 3,200 acres managed as an ACEC under Alternative C.
Timber Ridge		11,900	11,900		
<i>Total</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>170,500</i>	<i>145,500</i>	<i>33,400</i>	
<b>Wild Horses</b>	<i>Figure 2-4</i>				
Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range	35,200				
<b>Visual Resource Management (VRM)</b>	<i>Figure 2-5</i>	<i>Figure 2-6</i>	<i>Figure 2-7</i>	<i>Figure 2-8</i>	
VRM Class I	27,100	98,500	100,100	96,500	
VRM Class II	132,100	314,500	556,600	194,800	

**Table ES-4**  
**Comparative Summary of Alternatives**

<b>Resource or Resource Use</b>	<b>Alt A (acres)</b>	<b>Alt B (acres)</b>	<b>Alt C (acres)</b>	<b>Alt D (acres)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
VRM Class III	206,100	458,600	215,000	530,100	
VRM Class IV		189,800	189,700	240,000	
Undesignated	696,100				
<b>Lands Managed for Wilderness Characteristics Outside Existing Wilderness Study Areas</b>		<i>Figure 2-9</i>	<i>Figure 2-10</i>		
Bangs Canyon			20,400		
East Demaree Canyon			4,800		
East Salt Creek			17,000		
Hunter Canyon			32,200		
Kings Canyon			9,600		
Lumsden Canyon			10,100		
Maverick		17,800	20,400		
South Shale Ridge			27,500		
Spink Canyon			13,100		
Spring Canyon			8,800		
Unaweep		6,700	7,200		
West Creek (adjacent)		20	100		
<i>Total</i>	0	24,400	171,200	0	
<b>Livestock Grazing<sup>1</sup></b>	<i>Figure 2-11</i>	<i>Figure 2-12</i>	<i>Figure 2-13</i>	<i>Figure 2-14</i>	
Open to livestock grazing (acres)	978,600	961,100	586,600	977,200	
Closed to livestock grazing (acres)	48,600	66,000	440,400	49,900	
Starting available Animal Unit Months (AUMs)	61,270	60,633	32,658	61,270	
<b>Extensive Recreation Management Areas</b>	<i>Figure 2-15</i>	<i>Figure 2-16</i>		<i>Figure 2-17</i>	
34 and C Road		550		550	
Barrel Springs		10,300		10,300	
Castle Rock		4,400			
Dolores River Canyon		151,200		16,800	
Grand Junction ERMA	703,100				
Grand Valley		5,600			
Grand Valley Ranges				800	
Gunnison River Bluffs		800			
Palisade Rims		2,700			
South Shale Ridge				21,600	
Timber Ridge				11,900	
<i>Total</i>	703,100	175,500	0	61,900	
<b>Special Recreation Management Areas</b>	<i>Figure 2-18</i>	<i>Figure 2-19</i>	<i>Figure 2-20</i>	<i>Figure 2-21</i>	
Bangs	54,700	17,300	17,300	17,300	
Castle Rock				4,400	
Dolores River Canyon		16,900			

**Table ES-4**  
**Comparative Summary of Alternatives**

<b>Resource or Resource Use</b>	<b>Alt A (acres)</b>	<b>Alt B (acres)</b>	<b>Alt C (acres)</b>	<b>Alt D (acres)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Gateway Intensive Recreation Management Area	120,700				
Grand Valley Intensive Recreation Management Area	119,600				
Grand Valley				9,700	
Gunnison River Bluffs				800	
North Fruita Desert	63,300	44,100	42,700	44,100	
Palisade Rims				2,700	
<i>Total</i>	<i>358,300</i>	<i>78,300</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>79,000</i>	
<b>Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management</b>	<b>Figure 2-22</b>	<b>Figure 2-23</b>	<b>Figure 2-24</b>	<b>Figure 2-25</b>	
Open to cross-country motorized use	445,400				
Open to motorized use	12,500	5,400		10,200	
Closed to motorized use	35,300	187,900	379,500	111,300	
Limited to existing routes for motorized use	342,700				
Limited to designated routes for motorized use	225,500	868,100	681,900	939,900	
Open to mechanized travel	12,500	5,400		10,200	
Closed to mechanized travel		158,500	367,000	98,000	
Limited to designated routes for mechanized travel	6,200	897,500	694,400	953,200	
Open to horse travel		1035,500	1,023,800	1,042,400	
Closed to horse travel		1,300	1,300	1,300	
Limited to designated routes for horse travel	6,200	24,600	36,300	17,700	
Open to foot travel		1,036,800	1,023,800	1,043,700	
Closed to foot travel			1,300		
Limited to designated routes for foot travel	6,200	24,600	36,300	17,700	
<b>Lands and Realty</b>	<b>Figure 2-26</b>	<b>Figure 2-27</b>	<b>Figure 2-28</b>	<b>Figure 2-29</b>	
ROW exclusion areas	234,900	204,200	365,800	104,100	
ROW avoidance areas	441,400	740,900	627,000	80,500	
Acres suitable for disposal (Figures 2-30 through 2-33)	16,100	12,500	2,600	18,000	
<b>Coal Leasing</b>	<b>Figure 2-34</b>	<b>Figure 2-35</b>	<b>Figure 2-36</b>	<b>Figure 2-37</b>	
Unacceptable for coal leasing	36,700	56,000	58,200	43,800	
Acceptable for coal leasing	300,700	253,400	251,200	265,600	
<b>Fluid Mineral Leasing (in acres of federal mineral estate<sup>2</sup>)</b>					
Closed to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration	96,500	202,400	623,600	100,500	

**Table ES-4**  
**Comparative Summary of Alternatives**

<b>Resource or Resource Use</b>	<b>Alt A (acres)</b>	<b>Alt B (acres)</b>	<b>Alt C (acres)</b>	<b>Alt D (acres)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>BLM surface/federal minerals</i>	96,500 (Figure 2-38)	182,700 (Figure 2-39)	554,700 (Figure 2-40)	100,000 (Figure 2-41)	
<i>Private or State surface/federal minerals</i>		19,700	68,900	500	
<u>Open</u> to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration	1,134,600	1,028,800	607,600	1,130,700	
<i>BLM surface/federal minerals</i>	964,800 (Figure 2-38)	878,700 (Figure 2-39)	506,700 (Figure 2-40)	961,400 (Figure 2-41)	
<i>Private or state surface/federal minerals</i>	169,800	150,100	100,900	169,300	
<b>Stipulations for Surface-Disturbing Activities (in acres of federal mineral estate<sup>2</sup>; refer to Appendix B)</b>					
NSO stipulation for surface-disturbing activities	(Figure 2-42) <sup>3</sup>	614,000 (Figure 2-43)	858,000 (Figure 2-44)	497,800 (Figure 2-45)	
<i>BLM surface/federal minerals</i>		551,600	781,100	446,600	
<i>Private or state surface/federal minerals</i>		62,400	76,900	51,200	
CSU stipulation for surface-disturbing activities	(Figure 2-46) <sup>3</sup>	656,200 (Figure 2-47)	664,400 (Figure 2-48)	471,500 (Figure 2-49)	
<i>BLM surface/federal minerals</i>		618,100	627,000	458,700	
<i>Private or state surface/federal minerals</i>		38,100	37,400	12,800	
TL stipulation for surface-disturbing activities	(Figure 2-50) <sup>3</sup>	517,300 (Figure 2-51)	507,200 (Figure 2-52)	487,900 (Figure 2-53)	
<i>BLM surface/federal minerals</i>		457,300	447,200	455,100	
<i>Private or state surface/federal minerals</i>		60,000	60,000	32,800	
<u>Open</u> to leasing with NSO stipulation <sup>4</sup>	433,000 (Figure 2-42)	429,100	302,900	400,900	
<i>BLM surface/federal minerals</i>	433,000	382,200	266,300	349,700	
<i>Private or state surface/federal minerals</i>		46,900	36,600	51,200	
<u>Open</u> to leasing with CSU stipulation <sup>4</sup>	74,100 (Figure 2-46)	563,500	326,800	445,800	
<i>BLM surface/federal minerals</i>	74,100	527,500	303,500	433,000	
<i>Private or state surface/federal minerals</i>		3,600	23,300	12,800	
<u>Open</u> to leasing with TL stipulation <sup>4</sup>	233,000 (Figure 2-50)	401,600	241,600	438,700	
<i>BLM surface/federal minerals</i>	233,000	349,400	197,600	405,900	
<i>Private or state surface/federal minerals</i>		52,200	44,000	32,800	



**Table ES-4**  
**Comparative Summary of Alternatives**

<b>Resource or Resource Use</b>	<b>Alt A (acres)</b>	<b>Alt B (acres)</b>	<b>Alt C (acres)</b>	<b>Alt D (acres)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Locatable, Salable, and Non-energy Leasable Minerals</b>					
Open to locatable mineral exploration or development	1,047,100	1,047,100	1,047,100	1,047,100	
Withdrawn from mineral entry (Figure 2-54)	20,100	20,100	20,100	20,100	
Petition to withdraw from locatable mineral exploration or development		23,900 (Figure 2-55)	45,100 (Figure 2-56)	1,300 (Figure 2-57)	
Open for consideration for mineral material (salables) disposal on a case-by-case basis	787,100 (Figure 2-58)	781,900 (Figure 2-59)	609,400 (Figure 2-60)	906,100 (Figure 2-61)	
Closed to mineral material (salables) disposal	274,300 (Figure 2-58)	279,600 (Figure 2-59)	452,000 (Figure 2-60)	155,300 (Figure 2-61)	
Open for consideration of non-energy leasable mineral prospecting and development		542,500 (Figure 2-62)	353,800 (Figure 2-63)	925,400 (Figure 2-64)	
Closed to potash or other non-energy leasable mineral exploration or development		518,900 (Figure 2-62)	707,600 (Figure 2-63)	136,000 (Figure 2-64)	
<b>ACECs</b>	<b>Figure 2-65</b>	<b>Figure 2-66</b>	<b>Figure 2-67</b>	<b>Figure 2-68</b>	<b>ACEC Values</b>
Atwell Gulch		2,900	6,100		Cultural and paleontological resources, rare plants, scenic values, wildlife habitat
Badger Wash	1,700	2,200	2,200	2,200	Rare plants, use as a hydrologic study area
Colorado River Riparian			880		Significant cottonwood and willow communities, fisheries and scenic values
Coon Creek			110		Riparian habitat, fisheries values
Dolores River Riparian		7,400	7,400		Riparian habitat, hydrology, scenic values, paleontological resources, fisheries and wildlife values
Glade Park-Pinyon Mesa			27,200		Occupied Gunnison sage-grouse habitat
Gunnison River Riparian			460		Riparian and fisheries values
Hawxhurst Creek			860		Riparian and fisheries values
Indian Creek		1,700	1,700		Wildlife and cultural values
John Brown Canyon			1,400		Old-growth pinyon-juniper woodlands
Juanita Arch		1,600	1,600		Rare plants, geologic values
Mt. Garfield		3,500	5,700		Scenic values
Nine-Mile Hill Boulders			90		Paleontological values

**Table ES-4**  
**Comparative Summary of Alternatives**

Resource or Resource Use	Alt A (acres)	Alt B (acres)	Alt C (acres)	Alt D (acres)	Notes
The Palisade	23,600	32,200	32,200	26,900	Rare plant populations, scenic values, special status wildlife
Plateau Creek			220		Fish
Prairie Canyon			6,900		Rare plants and wildlife habitat
Pyramid Rock	600	1,300	1,300	1,300	Rare plant habitat, cultural resources, paleontological resources
Reeder Mesa			470		Plant resources
Roan and Carr Creeks		15,700	33,600		Unique riparian habitats, core conservation populations of cutthroat trout
Rough Canyon	2,700	2,800	2,800	2,700	Geologic values, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, rare plants
Sinbad Valley		6,400	6,400		Rare plants, wildlife, cultural resources, geologic values, scenic values
South Shale Ridge		28,200	28,200		Rare plants, wildlife habitat, scenic values
Unaweeep Seep	80	85	85	80	Great Basin silverspot butterfly habitat, rare plants, riparian habitat, hydrologic values
<i>Total</i>	28,900	106,000	168,000	33,200	
<b>Wilderness Study Areas</b>	<b>Figure 2-69</b>				
Demaree Canyon			22,700		
Little Book Cliffs			29,300		
The Palisade			26,700		
Sewemup Mesa			17,800		
<i>Total</i>			96,500		
<b>Wild and Scenic River Segments Eligible (Alternatives A and B) or Suitable (Alternative C) for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (in miles crossing BLM land)</b>	<b>Figure 2-70</b>	<b>Figure 2-71</b>	<b>Figure 2-70</b>		<b>Classification</b>
Blue Creek	10.07		10.07		Scenic
Carr Creek	5.06		5.06		Scenic
Colorado River Segment 1	7.32		7.32		Recreational
Colorado River Segment 2	1.31		1.31		Recreational
Colorado River Segment 3	19.14		19.14		Scenic

**Table ES-4**  
**Comparative Summary of Alternatives**

Resource or Resource Use	Alt A (acres)	Alt B (acres)	Alt C (acres)	Alt D (acres)	Notes
Dolores River	18.62	11.53	18.62		Recreational
East Creek	8.96		8.96		Recreational
Gunnison River Segment 2	3.85		3.85		Recreational
North Fork Mesa Creek	2.05		2.05		Scenic
North Fork West Creek	3.31		3.31		Wild
Roan Creek	6.47		6.47		Scenic
Rough Canyon Creek	4.22		4.22		Scenic
Ute Creek	4.19		4.19		Scenic
West Creek	4.93		4.93		Recreational
<i>Total Miles</i>	99.5	11.53	99.5	0	

Source: BLM 2010a

Hatching indicates zero acres or miles under that alternative.

<sup>1</sup>Portions of some allotments are outside of the GJFO planning area, but are administered by the GJFO. The inverse is also true where portions of allotments are within the GJFO planning area but are managed by another BLM Field Office. Additionally, not all lands within the planning area are allotted.

<sup>2</sup>Federal mineral estate includes mineral estate underlying BLM lands, privately owned lands, and state-owned lands. As such, federal mineral estate acres are greater than BLM surface acres. Federal mineral estate totals 1.2 million acres in the planning area.

<sup>3</sup>Acreage for Alternative A applies only to areas open to fluid mineral leasing.

<sup>4</sup>Stipulations may be applied to additional acreage if new information is provided (e.g., biological or cultural surveys).

## ES.7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The purpose of the environmental consequences analysis in this RMP/EIS is to determine the potential for significant impacts of the federal action on the human environment. Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA states that the “human environment” is interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment (40 CFR, Part 1508.14). The “federal action” is the BLM’s selection of an RMP on which future land use actions will be based for the GJFO.

Chapter 4 objectively evaluates the likely direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the human and natural environment in terms of environmental, social, and economic consequences that are projected to occur from implementing the alternatives. Some types of impacts for resources or resource uses could be confined to BLM lands (such as soil disturbance from recreational use), whereas some actions may have off-site/indirect impacts on resources on federal mineral estate (such as energy and minerals and requirements to protect such resources as special status species and cultural resources) or other land jurisdictions (e.g., private or state lands). Some BLM management actions might affect only certain resources and alternatives. The impact analysis identifies both enhancing and improving effects on a resource from a management action, as well as those that have the potential to diminish resource values.

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